



## NEWS RELEASE

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## Former MTA Bus Driver Charged With Grand Theft

A former Metropolitan Transit Authority employee has been charged with falsifying rideshare records that paid him about \$55,000 in subsidies, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced today.

Carlos Enrique Calderon-Castro (dob 11/4/67) of Sun City was charged in case BA481428 with four counts of grand theft by embezzlement.

He pleaded not guilty to the charges yesterday and is scheduled to return on Dec. 20 in Department 30 of the Foltz Criminal Justice Center. The case was filed for warrant on Sept. 26.

Deputy District Attorney Bobby Zoumberakis of the Public Integrity Division is prosecuting the case.

The defendant, who was a vanpool operator, allegedly received about \$55,000 from MTA between December 2012 and December 2016. The money from two rideshare programs helped pay for the lease of his van, the prosecutor said.

The defendant is accused of violating the programs' requirements, including falsifying the number of passengers who allegedly rode in his van in order to receive the monthly subsidies, the prosecutor added.

Prosecutors are recommending bail be set at \$80,000. If convicted as charged, he faces up to five years in county jail.

The case remains under investigation by the District Attorney's Bureau of Investigation.

### About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to protecting our community through the fair and ethical pursuit of justice and the safeguarding of crime victims' rights.